

The taxonomic identity of *Motacilla luzonensis* Scopoli, 1786

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Pierre Sonnerat (1748–1814), French explorer and naturalist, described and figured from the island of Luzon, Philippines, a wagtail as *La Bergonette a collier de l'isle de Luçon* (Sonnerat 1776: 61, pl. 29; the specimen has not been preserved). Shortly thereafter, Giovanni Antonio Scopoli (1723–88), the Italian naturalist, gave this bird the Latin name *Motacilla luzonensis* (Scopoli 1786: 95). This name was widely applied to 'Indian' White Wagtails in the 19th century (see Sharpe 1885: 482 for a list of citations; note that it was often misspelled *luzoniensis*) until Swinhoe (1870: 121) observed that *M. luzonensis* should not be applied to Indian birds and suggested that the latter be named *alboides* Hodgson (1836: 191). This confusion was probably caused by the word *niger* in Scopoli's (1786) Latin diagnosis of *luzonensis*, which was understood to mean 'black' (Swinhoe 1870, Sharpe 1885: 482, Hartert 1905: 305, footnote) thereby pointing towards black-backed wagtails. However, 'niger' means 'black' or 'dark' in Neo-Latin, while neither 'canus' nor 'caesius' are suitable expressions for the grey colour on the back of grey-backed wagtails (e.g. <http://lysy2.archives.nd.edu/cgi-bin/wordes.exe?gray>). Thus, Scopoli was correct in using the word 'niger', although this did not enable him to differentiate between black-backed and grey-backed wagtails, which in turn led to the above-mentioned confusion.

Swinhoe (1870: 121), Sharpe (1885: 482) and Hartert (1905: 305, footnote) briefly discussed the identity of Sonnerat's *La Bergonette* or Scopoli's *Motacilla luzonensis*, but left it unresolved. With a modern revision of Palearctic wagtails at hand (Alström & Mild 2003), it is easy to identify Sonnerat's bird as an adult in winter plumage of the subspecies now generally called *M. alba ocularis* Swinhoe (1860: 55). Characteristic is the combination of grey upperparts, head pattern, broad white wing panel and white chin (see Alström & Mild 2003). The bird differs from the standard plumage of this subspecies only in lacking a black stripe on its lores, but this aberration is well known in *ocularis* (Alström & Mild 2003). *M. a. ocularis* is the only form of White Wagtail that regularly winters in the northern Philippines, including Luzon (Kennedy *et al.* 2000, Dickinson *et al.* 2001, Alström & Mild 2003). Sonnerat is well known for having assigned some birds to incorrect localities (Alexander 1924, Ly-Tio-Fane 1978; see also Cheke 2009), but this record fits our knowledge of the distribution of the forms of the White Wagtail and does not need to be doubted.

Motacilla luzonensis Scopoli, 1786, antedates *Motacilla ocularis* Swinhoe, 1860, and should thus be used for this wagtail form on the basis of the Principle of Priority. However, the currently prevailing use of *ocularis* for this subspecies should be continued, because both conditions of Art. 23.9.1. of the *International code of zoological nomenclature* (ICZN 1999; hereafter the Code) are met. First, I am unaware of any use of *M. luzonensis* Scopoli as a valid name after 1899 (Art. 23.9.1.1). Second, *M. ocularis* Swinhoe has been used as a valid name 'in at least 25 works, published by at least 10 authors in the immediately preceding 50 years and encompassing a span of not less than 10 years' (Art. 23.9.1.2). The required citations are: Deignan (1963: 195), Traylor (1967: 26), Thompson & DeLong (1969: 748), Byrd *et al.* (1978), Kišinskij & Lobkov (1979), Morlan (1981), Haffer (1985), Ölschlegel (1985), Howell (1990), Stepanyan (1990: 371), Brazil (1991: 203), Dickinson *et al.* (1991), Nuytemans (1998: 40), Artúhin *et al.* (2000), Kennedy *et al.* (2000: 308), MacKinnon & Phillipps (2000: 483), Carey

(2001: 335), Tomek (2002: 22), Winker *et al.* (2002), Alström & Mild (2003), Dickinson (2003: 740), Stepanyan (2003: 410), Tyler (2004: 777), Rasmussen & Anderton (2005: 315), Robson (2005: 278), Zheng (2005: 166), Koblik *et al.* (2006: 148) and Brazil (2009: 458). Thus, *Motacilla luzonensis* Scopoli, 1786, is a *nomen oblitum*, and *Motacilla ocularis* Swinhoe, 1860, is a *nomen protectum* in the sense of Art. 23.9.2. of the Code.

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The correct name of the West African subspecies of African Lemon Dove *Columba larvata*

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Until the publication of Baptista *et al.* (1997) the subspecies of African Lemon Dove *Columba larvata* Temminck, 1810, which occurs from Sierra Leone east to Congo-Brazzaville, was known as *Columba* (previously *Aplopelia*) *larvata inornata*, based on *Haplopelia inornata* Reichenow, 1892, *Allgemeine Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft zu Berlin*, Bericht, Febr. Sitzung: 6 (type locality: Buea, 950 m, Cameroon Range). Note that some authorities cite this name as Reichenow, 1892, *Journal für Ornithologie* 40: 221, but this issue was published in April 1892, whereas the citation from the *Allgemeine Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft zu Berlin* was published on 19 February.

Baptista *et al.* (1997: 131) noted that with the transfer of African Lemon Dove from *Aplopelia* Bonaparte, 1855, to *Columba* Linnaeus, 1758, Reichenow's *inornata* became preoccupied through secondary homonymy (ICZN 1999, Art. 57.3) in *Columba* by *inornata* Vigors, 1827, the basis of Plain Pigeon, whose type locality is 'near Havana, Cuba'. Accordingly, they replaced Reichenow's name with *Columba larvata hypoleuca*, based on what they assumed to be the next available name: *Haplopelia hypoleuca* Salvadori, 1903, *Memorie della Reale Accademia delle Scienze di Torino*, ser. 2, 53: 96 (island of Annobón). This was accepted by Dickinson (2003: 160). I am grateful to R. J. Dowsett for pointing out that Annobón's location, the paucity of specimens from that island, and that because a different subspecies, *principalis* (Hartlaub, 1866) occurs on São Tome, just north of Annobón, it is not certain that *hypoleuca* is appropriate for West African birds.

However, with the transfer of all New World species previously placed in *Columba* to *Patagioenas* Reichenbach, 1853 (*cf.* Johnson & Clayton 2000), secondary homonymy between *inornata* Reichenow and *inornata* Vigors ceases (ICZN 1999, Art. 59.4; Morel *et al.* 1986). Thus the name of the West African subspecies of the African Lemon Dove should revert to *Columba larvata inornata* (Reichenow, 1892).